

"Gold" World Ranking Events (WREs): A Guide for Event Organisers

Introduction

Each year more than 200 World Ranking Events ("WREs") are organised in over 35 countries. WREs are the foundation of the international elite orienteering programme. The IOF is now introducing a premium label, **Gold WRE**, to highlight the most prominent WREs, and deliver extra promotion and recognition due to their prestige. The premium label will also serve as a guide to WREs that attracts a more international field of competitors and/or provide financial support towards the athletes.

Summary

Benefits for Organisers

- Enhanced publicity and marketing as a high-profile Gold WRE.
- Opportunity to attract more elite athletes and boost entry numbers.
- Potential pathway to hosting higher-tier events like the World Cup or WOC.
- Assistance in securing sponsorships and financial support.

Benefits for the Athletes

- Enable a transparent and trustful guide for athletes to find events where they might be financially supported and gain publicity.
- Offering and highlighting the WREs that offer excellent terrains which are likely to attract a particularly strong elite field, and possibly a preview of the type of terrain to be used at a forthcoming IOF major event. These WREs should in particular attract athletes who, while being at elite level, are not yet qualifying for their national teams at WOC or World Cups.

Geographic and Calendar Considerations

- IOF aims to have Gold WREs in several regions worldwide.
- Preference for spreading events throughout the year, especially between October and Easter, and to harmonise with the World Cup and other major IOF Events.

Q&A for Event Organisers: Gold WREs in Foot-O

General Information

Q1: What is a Gold WRE?

A Gold WRE is a prominent Foot-O World Ranking Event that receives extra promotion and recognition due to its prestige or financial support. It offers top-level competition with high-profile exposure.

Q2: How does a Gold WRE differ from a standard WRE?

A Gold WRE benefits from:

- Greater publicity with a dedicated IOF website presence and social media support.
- Higher visibility to attract elite athletes.
- Despite the increased marketing and support from the IOF, no increased Service Fee above the normal WRE is imposed.
- Option “Funded WRE” offering financial incentives for athletes to participate.

Organiser Benefits

Q3: What are the benefits of hosting a Gold WRE?

- Enhanced publicity through the IOF’s website and social media.
- Opportunity to attract more elite athletes and boost entry numbers.
- Strengthened credibility, supporting the organiser’s chance of securing sponsorships and additional financial support.
- A pathway for federations and local organisers to hosting higher-tier events like the World Cup or World Orienteering Championships.

Type and criterias for Gold WREs

Q4: What types of Gold WREs are there?

There are two types:

- **“Premier” Gold WRE** – Recognised for its elite competition history, quality terrain, or link to major events.
- **“Funded” Gold WRE** – Offers substantial financial and visibility incentives for the athletes.

Q5: What are the criteria for awarding Gold WRE status?

-For **“Premier” Gold WREs**, BOTH the criteria noted below would need to be satisfied:

1.) The WRE being expected to have a **quality terrain with strong field of elite competitors**. Typically an event with a track record of strong organisation and which normally attracts a good number of elite athletes, or one race within an established major multi-day event.

2a.) **EITHER** The WRE falling within the calendar as **linking to one or more IOF major events, or major club relays** (i.e. WOC, a round in the World Cup series, or an IOF Regional Championships) or to other Gold WRE events that take place over a short period in the same region.)

2b.) **OR** The terrain and mapping proposed would be helpful to athletes aiming to participate in a forthcoming WOC or World Cup round.

-For **“Funded” Gold WREs**, BOTH the criteria noted below would need to be satisfied:

1.) The terrain chosen, the organisational infrastructure, and the accommodation available to athletes all being at a level of quality that would satisfy the participants.

2.) A contractual commitment to the IOF to cover costs for an IOF Event Adviser from outside the host country, and to produce a quality live streaming production for IOF TV. And offer athletes substantial financial incentives to participate, including prize money being given. The minimum prize money level for a single standing race is EUR 1000, 800, 600, 500, 400, 300 for place 1 to 6, with men & women prizes all being equal. (If multiple races are organised, the level might be adjusted.) Other incentives towards the athletes are also expected. This could be support for travel, entry fees or accommodation support.

Application and Approval Process

Q6: How does the application process work?

- Applications are submitted [online via IOF Eventor](#) using the standard IOF WRE process, plus indicating an interest for the Gold WRE label by an email to wre@orienteering.sport

Q7: What is the approval timeline for Gold WRE status?

- Early, and multi-year applications are welcomed, and encouraged.
- **Applications close on 30 September** for the following year's events.
- The final list of Gold WREs for the coming calendar year is published in November.

Q8: Who approves Gold WRE status?

The Foot-O Commission supported by the IOF Office, approves Gold WRE status.

Event Types and Calendar

Q9: How many Gold WREs are expected each year?

The aim is for 8 to 15 events annually, ideally with a balance between Long/Middle forest races and Sprint events.

Q10: Can a Gold WRE be part of the World Cup or National Championships?

No, Gold WREs cannot be part of the World Cup series or a federation's National Championships to avoid overshadowing those competitions.

Q11: Can multi-day events feature multiple Gold WREs?

No, a multi-day event can have only one Gold WRE race.

Q12: Are non-European regions encouraged to host Gold WREs?

Yes, regions outside Europe are encouraged to apply, to help expand the sport's global reach.

Sustainability Considerations

Q13: What environmental impacts should organisers consider?

- Gold WREs may increase athlete travel. However, by linking Gold WREs to nearby major IOF events should minimise this effect.

Financial and Commercial Aspects

Q14: What are the financial expectations for Gold WRE organisers?

- A normal WRE service fee per entrant.
- For “Funded” Gold WREs, organisers must pay the full costs of an IOF Event Adviser from another country, a live streaming production for IOF TV and commit to providing financial incentives for the athletes to participate.

Q15: Are there additional commercial obligations? (Besides presenting the IOF Gold WRE logo.)

- "Premier" Gold WREs must provide space for 1 IOF Silver Sponsor as described in the IOF Sponsor Guide. (i.e logo at Website, Bulletins, LED-screens, Backdrops, Start and Finish chute)
- "Funded" Gold WREs must provide space for 1 IOF Gold Sponsor as described in [the IOF Sponsor Guide](#).

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